WHAT THE HECK...

...IS THIS...?

THESE ARE MEMORIES.

YES.

THE MEMORIES OF A TRAGEDY I SAW OVER AND OVER AGAIN IN THE OTHER WORLD.

I EXPECT YOU WERE SHOWN SOMETHING DIFFERENT...

MEMO-RIES...?

I CAN SHOW YOU PEOPLE'S EMOTIONS AND MEMORIES DIRECTLY...

SU (SSK)

...

THAT'S WHAT MY POWER IS.

THE POWER OF... "FAVORING EYES."

THAT SORT OF PLACE.

I DIDN'T KNOW LEFT FROM RIGHT, UP FROM DOWN.

IT NEVER FELT COLD, AND IT NEVER FELT HOT.

...I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME I SPENT THERE.

—IT'S BRIGHT.

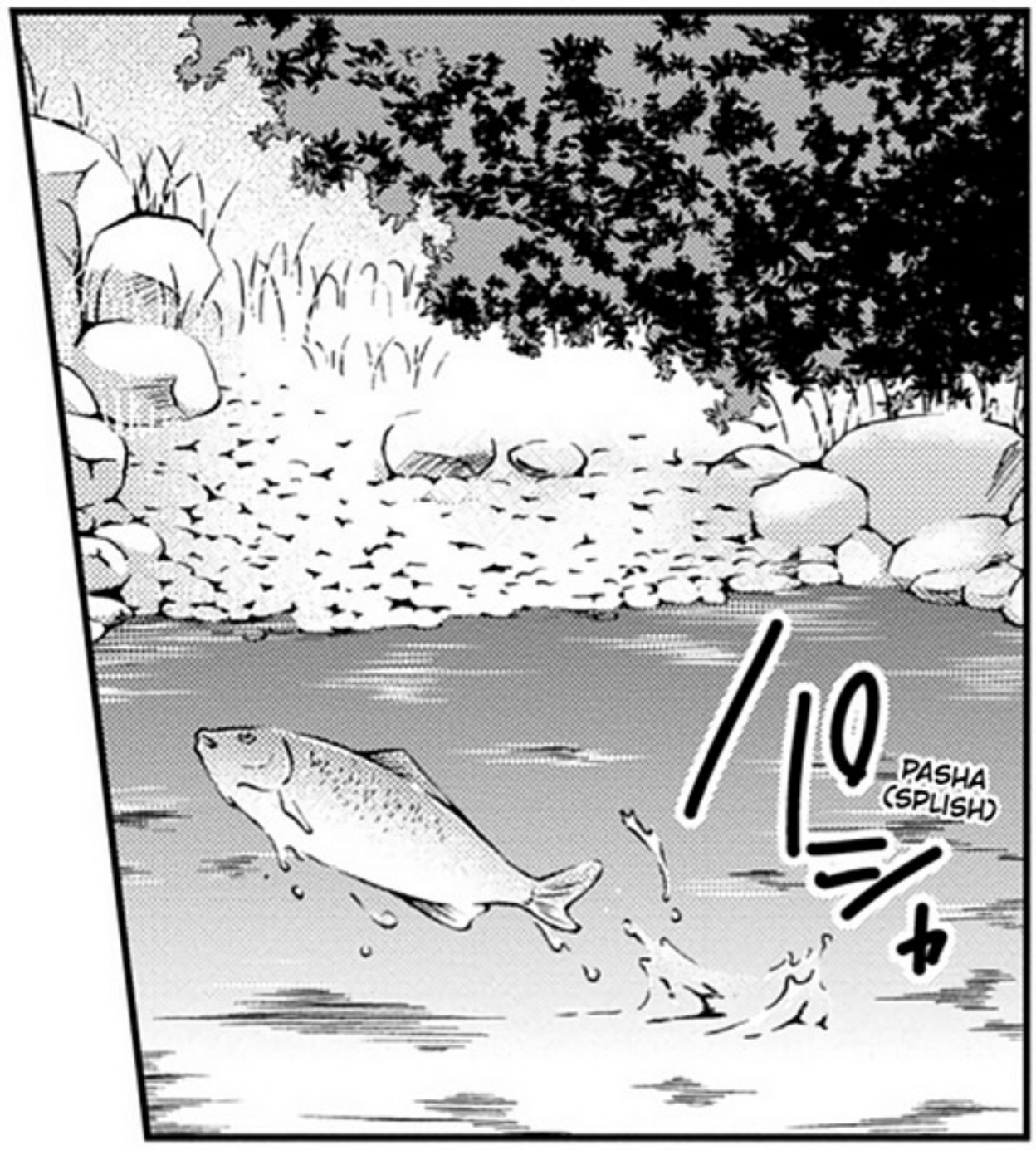
AH. I SEE.

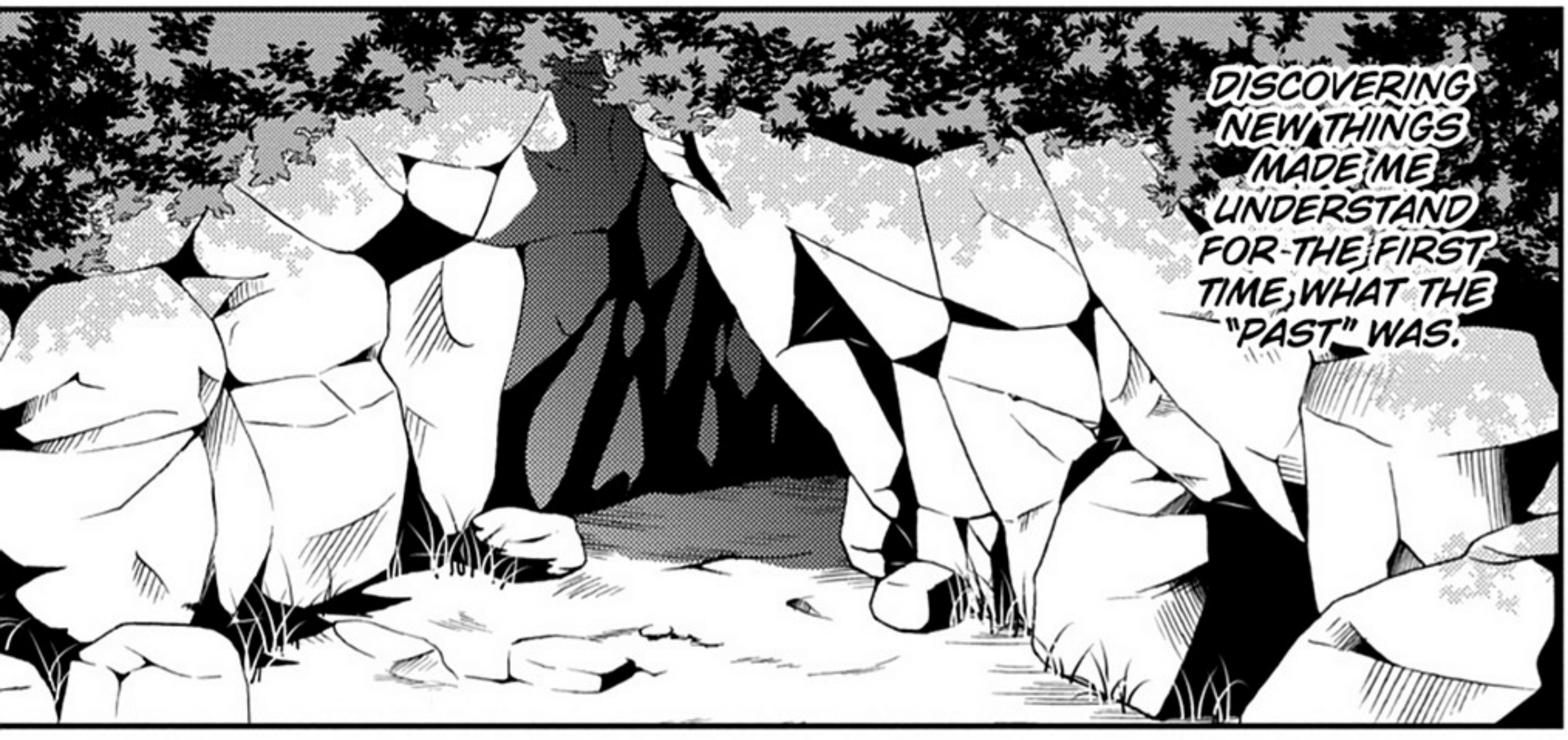
I MUST HAVE BEEN IN A DARK PLACE.

WHAT IS THIS?

HOW DOES THAT WORK?

EXPERIENCING "MORNING" TEACHES YOU WHAT "NIGHT" MEANS. EXPERIENCING "WINTER" MAKES YOU REALIZE WHAT "SUMMER" WAS.





...WHAT IS THIS...?

THIS...THING, LOOKING THIS WAY...?

ALWAYS STAR-ING...

WAIT.

THIS IS ME.

I SEE...

AND I MIGHT EVEN COME TO FIND...

SO I HAVE A SHAPE OF MY OWN.

I WONDER HOW I NEVER NOTICED UNTIL NOW.

...BUT NO. THEY COME AND GO SO QUICKLY WITH THE PASSAGE OF "TIME"...

...WHILE I HAVE BEEN WATCHING THIS WORLD EVER SINCE IT WAS CREATED FROM THE DARKNESS.

...THAT I AM THE SAME AS **THEM**. AS THE "LIVING CREATURES."

SO WHAT AM I, THEN?

...I DON'T KNOW.

HMPH.

WHAT IS THIS ANYWAY? THIS FEATURE-LESS BLACK EXIS-TENCE?

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE I CAN'T COME UP WITH AN ANSWER TO SUCH A SIMPLE QUESTION.

...IT MIGHT BE EASIER FOR ME TO UNDERSTAND THE STATE OF THINGS THAN IT IS NOW.

IF I AT LEAST HAD ALL THE USUAL ASPECTS— HEAD, LEGS...

I WISH I AT LEAST HAD A FORM THAT WAS EASIER TO UNDERSTAND.

SUU (FISH)

?

BUT... AHH... YES.

I HAVE "EYES" AFTER ALL, THEN.

ARE THEY... "EYES"?

I DON'T THINK THOSE WERE THERE BEFORE...

WHAT ARE THESE TWO RED POINTS ...?

IF I AM NOT A CREATURE BUT SOMETHING ELSE, THEN—

THEY MAKE ME MORE CLOSELY RESEMBLE A LIVING THING, BUT ARE THEY ENOUGH?

JARI

JARI

JARI (SKRCH)

THAT SOUND...

THE SOUND "LIVING THINGS" MAKE AS THEY WALK ON THE GROUND.

IT SOUNDS LIKE MANY OF THEM.

IT SOUNDS AS IF THEY'RE COMING TOWARD ME...

POLI (FWOOM)

ﾅﾆ...

JARI (SKRCH)

THESE ARE UNLIKE ANY I'VE ENCOUN-TERED...

THEY MUST BE RATHER INTELLIGENT, JUDGING BY THE FIRE THEY WIELD.

PITA (STOP)

!!?

AAAAAGH

WHAT ...!?

WHY ARE THEY SWINGING THAT AROUND !?

BUN

AAAAAH

JA (THWACK)

BUN (SWING)

HOT!

OWW!

WHAT WAS THAT!?

HOT! HOT, HOT!

ハロー

PASHA (SPLASH)

BOU (FWOOSH)

THESE CREATURES...

ARE THEY TRYING TO KILL ME?

HOT! AHH, STOP IT!

I HATE THIS!

I DON'T WANT TO DIE! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!

HOT! OHH, IT HURTS!

WILL I DIE?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I DIE?

AGH!!

...WHAT'S WRONG!?

I'LL KILL YOU, YOU MON-STER!

SNAKE?

AGH, DAMN, THAT HURT...

SNAKE!

WHAT IS THIS "SNAKE" THEY SPEAK OF?

WATCH OUT! THEY'RE STILL CRAWLING AROUND!

WHAT ARE THEY GOING ON ABOUT!?

...?

HURRY!

BATA (SCAMPER) BATA

COME ON!

IS THAT HOW MUCH "SNAKE" MAKES THEM QUIVER IN FEAR...?

BATA

WHY ARE THEY LEAVING SO QUICKLY...?

BATA

WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!

BATA (SCAMPER)

BATA

BATA

BATA

...SO BE IT.

GO AHEAD. LEAVE. AND MAY YOU STAY AWAY FOREVER.

MY MIND IS HAZY, BUT THE PAIN IS GONE.

I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING...

PERHAPS I WAS ALREADY DEAD...

DOKUN (BADUM)

IT'S AS IF IT SOUNDED OUT FROM WITHIN ME...

IT'S NOT FROM OUTSIDE...

...? WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

...NGH!!?

ZUKIN (THROB)

ARE THOSE CREATURES STILL HERE!?

WHAT...!? THE PARTS THEY BURNED BEFORE...

OW!

BA (BOLT)

WHEW...

NO... THEY'RE NOT...

WHO WERE THEY ANY-WAY...?

JUDGING BY THEIR ACTIONS, THEY ARE SUBJECT TO THE SAME IMPULSES AS WELL.

"PAIN" GIVES BIRTH TO "FEAR."

THIS "PAIN"... I FIND IT HARD TO COPE WITH.

ZUKIN (THROB)

ZUKIN

ZUKIN

SUCH INCREDIBLY FEARFUL CREATURES.

THEY CLEARLY HAD MURDER ON THEIR MINDS. THEY TRIED TO KILL ME.

I SEE...

GATA (TREMBLE)

GATA

THIS MUST BE THE CAUSE.

GATA

GATA

GATA

GATA

GATA

THE EXPRESSIONS ON THE FACES OF THOSE CREATURES THE MOMENT THEY FACED DEATH...

AND LOOK AT ME.

THIS WORLD IS FULL OF THESE MOMENTS OF DESPERATION, REPEATED AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN, ENDLESSLY...

I HAVE NEVER FELT THIS "FEAR" BEFORE.

I HAVE ONLY THE MOST CURSORY, SUPERFICIAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD, OF MYSELF.

I KNOW NOTH-ING...

COME TO THINK OF IT...

...WHEN THEY SHOUTED "SNAKE" TOWARD THE END, THEY RECOILED IN FEAR.

PICHON (DRIP)

ポタ!...

SHURU (SLITHER)

SHURU

WHY WAS THAT, I WONDER ...?

SHURU

GATA (TREMBLE)

GATA

GATA

SHURU

WHA...!?

BIKU (TWITCH)

BIKUN

.....!?

MY BODY'S NOT LISTEN-ING TO ME.

...!

WILL IT COME AFTER ME NEXT...?

IS THAT THE "SNAKE" THAT MADE THOSE CREATURES TREMBLE IN HORROR?

DON'T...

DON'T KILL ME!

WAH... AGH...!

DID MY MEANING—"DON'T KILL ME"—COME ACROSS... TO THEM?

WAS...WAS THAT MY OWN VOICE THAT CAME OUT JUST NOW?

PITA (FREEZE)

ヒタッ

WE HAVE NO REASON TO KILL YOU.

WE ATTACKED THE HUMANS...

...BECAUSE THEY ARE UNPLEASANT CREATURES WHO THREATEN TO DESTROY OUR HOME.

JIWA (TEARY)

THEY AREN'T GOING TO HURT ME...

PORO (WEEP)

IT CAME ACROSS... YES.

PORO

SNIFF...

...HMM. I SEE. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU?

OH, YOU DON'T KNOW?

...HMM. I SEE. YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU

THIS VICIOUS BULLY!

BUT SAYING I KNOW WON'T HELP ME AT ALL...

I SHOULD TELL THE TRUTH...

I...

THAT, I DON'T KNOW.

HMPH!

I WAS JUST THINKING THAT I WANT TO FIND OUT.

OF COURSE I DO.

I'VE WATCHED THIS WORLD FAR, FAR LONGER THAN YOU HAVE.

I KNOW MOST OF WHAT THERE IS TO KNOW!

WHAT AM I TALKING ABOUT...?

DIDN'T I JUST REALIZE HOW LITTLE I KNOW?

GIKU CTWITCHD

THIS...

ALL RIGHT.

IN THAT CASE, WHO ARE YOU?

I APOL-OGIZE.

I SEE.

BUT WHY DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOURSELF? YOU'RE A STRANGE CREATURE.

I MERELY WONDERED BECAUSE YOU ARE USING OUR LANGUAGE.

IT'S "STRANGE" TO WANT TO LEARN ABOUT ONESELF?

.....?

BUT...

I COULDN'T EVEN PUT FORTH A GUESS.

NOT REALLY.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I AM?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

"HUMANS"? WHAT ARE HUMANS?

ARE THEY...

THEY SEEK TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY ARE AS WELL.

MAYBE THEY COULD SERVE AS A "MIRROR" FOR YOU.

...PERHAPS THE HUMANS COULD OFFER YOU COUNSEL.

...THE ONES FROM BEFORE...?

ZO (SHIVER)

AH!

HOW COULD THEY EVER TEACH ME ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT I—

YOU WANT ME TO MEET THEM AGAIN!?

THEY ALMOST KILLED ME A MOMENT AGO!

...MON-STER...

BUT...

AND GIVEN HOW LITTLE THEY HESITATED BEFORE SAYING IT, THE HUMANS MUST KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT ME.

YES. THEY CALLED ME A "MONSTER."

WOULD IT?

WELL, YOU SHOULD COME TO THE BEST DECISION FOR YOURSELF.

YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE HERE CAPABLE OF KNOWING ANYTHING.

...INDEED. JUDGING BY THEIR WORDS, THEY SEEMED TO KNOW ME WELL ENOUGH.

BUT THEY NEARLY KILLED ME AS WELL.

NGH... BUT...

BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO?

HMM.

SHURU (SLITHER)

IF I RUN INTO THEM AGAIN AND THEY ATTACK, IT WOULD BE AN UNWINNABLE BATTLE.

WOULD...

.....

WOULD LOOKING THE SAME AS THEM KEEP THEM CALM?

THEN, THINK ABOUT THIS. WHY DO YOU THINK THE HUMANS ATTACKED YOU?

...BECAUSE I AM DIFFERENT FROM THEM, I IMAGINE. ANOTHER BREED.

THAT'S HOW ALL THE OTHER CREATURES I'VE SEEN ACT.

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO TO AVOID BEING ATTACKED?

WHAT CAN I DO?

...HMM?

GUI (SPIN)

カイツ

NGH ...

ZURU (DRAG)

WHAT IS WITH THIS CREATURE ...?

ZURU

GUI

GUI (NOD)

YOU WANT ME TO SEE MY REFLEC-TION?

WHAT PURPOSE WOULD THAT SERVE?

I SUPPOSE I CAN STILL MANAGE WELL ENOUGH, BUT...

GRH... AND WHAT IS WITH ME, FOR THAT MATTER...?

IT'S GROWN TERRIBLY DIFFICULT TO MOVE MY BODY...

ZURU

ZURU

DAMN THAT SNAKE...

ZURU

ZURU

I SAW MYSELF JUST BEFORE. WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO TO LOOK AGAIN?

ZURU
(DRAG)

UWAH!!

GATA (SHUDDER)

A HUMAN ...!

NO.

IT WAS SURPRISED TOO...?

HUH...?

I THINK THAT...

PETA

PETA

PETA (PAD)

...THAT...
IS ME?

SU
(SSK)